



ARIZONA WILDFIRE ACADEMY

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For Immediate Release – March 18, 2006

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Fourth Annual Arizona Wildfire Academy Began This Morning

PRESCOTT, Ariz. – The fourth annual Arizona Wildfire Academy began operations today. The academy is held on the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University campus in Prescott each year during spring break. Forty-nine classes, basic through advanced, are being conducted to help prepare personnel for the upcoming wildland fire season.

“The Prescott community has benefited in many ways from AWA,” said Darrell Willis, chief of the Prescott Fire Department. “I believe the largest benefit to the Prescott Fire Department is that the whole community is more aware of wildfire due to the high media impact AWA has on our community. Additionally, AWA, in conjunction with the Governor’s Forest Health Summit, brings statewide and national attention to the wildfire problem.”

Many classes include field exercises to provide practical experience for the students. This is the largest Arizona Wildfire Academy held to date, with 960 student slots (some students take more than one class during the week) being filled. Including staff, instructors, vendors and students, the academy has 1,179 total registrants. About 560 participants are from Arizona. Other participants come from as far away as Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Georgia and Canada.

The state of Arizona has recently experienced an extended dry period that may lead to a very difficult, long and intense fire season this year. The academy is uniquely placed to help firefighters, contractors, administrators, and others get ready to deal with the extreme challenges that they will face. Classes will continue through Friday.

For more information, please call the academy information office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 928-777-6959.

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